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REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT IN 2009

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

In line with General Assembly resolution 59/267, this report provides a synopsis of UNFPA management responses to key recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). In 2009, the JIU issued eight reports: four organization-specific reports; one addressing a United Nations convention; and three reports with cross-organizational impact. In line with the wishes of the Executive Board and the current United Nations emphasis on simplification and harmonization, the present report was prepared in a format jointly developed with UNDP.

Elements of a decision

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the present report, especially those aspects of the JIU reports that have particular relevance to the work of UNFPA.

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I. OVERVIEW OF JOINT INSPECTION UNIT REPORTS ISSUED IN 2009

1. Of the eight reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in 2009, four are specific to organizations other than UNFPA and one report is not relevant to UNFPA (see annex 1 for a list of the reports). Hence, the recommendations in those five reports are not reviewed in the present report.

2. The three JIU reports relevant to UNFPA are: Towards more coherent United Nations system support to Africa (JIU/REP/2009/5); Offshoring in United Nations system organizations: offshore service centres (JIU/REP/2009/6); and Selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2009/8).

II. SYNOPSIS AND REVIEW OF RELEVANT JOINT INSPECTION UNIT REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The present chapter reviews the key recommendations of the three reports relevant to UNFPA that were issued by the JIU in 2009.

A. Towards more coherent United Nations system support to Africa (JIU/REP/2009/5)

4. This report assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing system-wide cooperation framework, drawing on and sharing lessons learned as well as identifying best coordination practices and methods of collaboration with regard to the United Nations system support to Africa. The report is focused on development issues in line with Millennium Development Goal 8 – Develop a global partnership for development.

5. The report makes 17 recommendations: two are directed to legislative bodies and would need to be reviewed by those bodies; six do not require UNFPA action; the remaining 11 recommendations are relevant and accepted for implementation by UNFPA.

6. The general thrust of the recommendations is one of facilitating system-wide coordination and cooperation in support of Africa. UNFPA is supportive of any coordination effort that contributes to effective and efficient support to and involvement of African Governments.

B. Offshoring in United Nations system organizations: offshore service centres (JIU/REP/2009/6)

7. This report reviews offshoring policies, practices and experiences across the United Nations system with the goal of identifying best practices and lessons learned. The report distinguishes between offshore insourcing (relocation of business processes staffed by United Nations employees to a country other than that where the headquarters or other

significant presence is located) and offshore outsourcing (relocation of business processes to other countries and non-United Nations system entities).

8. The report makes 18 recommendations: two are directed to the Secretary-General; three to legislative bodies; the remaining 13, which fall under the purview of UNFPA, are accepted by the Fund.

9. UNFPA presently has completed three offshoring arrangements: Atlas helpdesk services and vendor management systems are offshore outsourced services and procurement is insourced but located offshore in Copenhagen, Denmark. The report provides useful guidance for future offshoring efforts including attention to policy development, staffing considerations, and the need to monitor the real financial impact in order to compare with proposed cost savings and other business goals of offshoring.

C. Selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations (JIU/REP/2009/8)

10. This report provides an evaluation of legal and institutional frameworks and practices relevant to the selection of executive heads. Acknowledging that the selection of executive heads falls within the prerogative of Member States, the report makes 13 recommendations.

11. Of the 13 recommendations, two are directed to the Secretary-General; one to the United Nations Chief Executives Board; and the remaining 10 to the legislative bodies of the United Nations system organizations.

III. STATUS OF UNFPA IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT INSPECTION UNIT RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED DURING 2006-2008

12. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/258 requesting the JIU to enhance dialogue with participating organizations and thereby strengthen the implementation of its recommendations, the JIU requested information on the follow-up to recommendations issued in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Annexes 2, 3 and 4 list the 14 JIU reports issued during the period 2006-2008, which were included in the 2009 follow-up exercise.

13. Of the 131 recommendations issued by JIU during 2006-2008 through the reports, 62 were directed to funds and programmes and are relevant to UNFPA. Of those relevant to and accepted by UNFPA, all have either been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The remaining recommendations are typically directed at the General Assembly, the Secretary-General or legislative bodies.

14. The implementation of 2008 recommendations stands at 30 per cent (7 out of 23) while the implementation of 2007 recommendations has increased from 62 per cent (18

out of 29) to 72 per cent (21 out of 29). Meanwhile, the implementation of 2006 recommendations stands at 90 per cent (9 out of 10). UNFPA is committed to following up on the implementation of the remaining recommendations that are relevant to the Fund.

Annex 1. Summary of reports issued by the Joint Inspection Unit in 2009

Report symbol	Name of report	Total recommendations	Relevant to UNFPA	Recommendations directed at the Executive Board
JIU/REP/2009/1	Review of management and administration in the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	25	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/2	Second follow-up to the management review of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/3	Effectiveness of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) regional presence	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/4	Assessment of the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/5	Towards more coherent United Nations system support to Africa	17	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/6	Offshoring in United Nations system organizations: offshore service centres	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/7	Review of management and administration in the World Food Programme (WFP)	12	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2009/8	Selection and conditions of service of executive heads in the United Nations system organizations	13	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total JIU recommendations in 2009		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Annex 2 Review of implementation status of relevant BU recommendations issued in 2009

Report symbol	Name of report	Total recommendations	Relevance to UNDPA	Implemented	Partially implemented
[illegible]	Review of management and administration in the United Postal Union of [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Junior Professional Officer Associate Expert Associate Professional Officer programmes in United Nations system organizations	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Management review of procurement activities in the United Nations system	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	National execution of technical cooperation projects	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Review of information and communication technology (ICT) funding services in the United Nations system organizations	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Review of management of internal auditing in the United Nations system organizations	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total BU recommendations in 2009		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Annex 3. Review of implementation status of relevant JIU recommendations issued in 2007

Report symbol	Name of report	Total recommendations	Relevant to UNFPA	Implemented	Partially implemented
JIU/REP/2007/1	Voluntary contributions in United Nations system organizations: Impact on programme delivery and resource mobilization strategies	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2007/2	United Nations system staff medical coverage	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2007/4	Age structure of human resources in the organizations of the United Nations system	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2007/6	Knowledge management in the United Nations system	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2007/10	Liaison offices in the United Nations system	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/2007/12	Review of the progress made by the United Nations system organizations in achieving Millennium Development Goal 8, "Target 17" [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total JIU recommendations in 2007		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Annex 4. Review of implementation status of relevant JIU recommendations issued in [illegible]

Report symbol	Name of report	Total recommendations	Relevant to UNFPA	Implemented	Partially implemented
JIU/REP/[illegible]	Oversight lacunae in the United Nations system	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JIU/REP/[illegible]	A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: Provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries	[illegible]	[illegible]	N/A	N/A
Total JIU recommendations in [illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]